



**Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Bureau of Elder and Adult Services
442 Civic Center Drive
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011**

Memo

To: Interested Parties
From: Christine Gianopoulos, Director
Date: August 9, 2004
Subject: Changes in Long-term Care Assessment Program

Budget constraints affecting the Bureau of Elder and Adult Services and the Bureau of Medical Services again make it necessary to modify assessment program practices. These changes are intended to make best use of limited state funds for assessments. The two areas that will be affected are Long Term Care Advisory and Home Based Care assessments.

Long Term Care Advisory Assessments: Will be available to individuals who are actively seeking nursing facility placement and have identified a facility and an available bed; who are converting to private pay at the end of a SNF stay; or have been prescreened as potentially eligible for a MaineCare program.

Home Based Care Program: Effective immediately, assessments for individuals seeking services under this program are deferred. Given the current waiting list of 200+ persons, it is not a good use of limited funds to assess persons whose circumstances are likely to change between the time they are assessed and when they can be admitted to the HBC program. Goold Health Systems will make referrals to other services, such as Homemaker, Alzheimer's Respite, Adult Day Services, or Family Caregiver, and provide written resources as needed. Elder Independence of Maine will follow-up with those on the HBC Waiting List in order to keep the list current.

MaineCare-funded Services: Please continue to request assessments for MaineCare nursing facility and home care. Goold will continue to prescreen individuals asking for home care assistance to assure maximization of third party payor sources in compliance with Chapter I of the MaineCare Benefits Manual. Providers recently received notice from the Department outlining expectations around seeking payment from other resources before billing MaineCare.

We regret having to limit access to assessments, and will resume accepting referrals when funds are available. If you have questions, please contact Mollie Baldwin at 287-9200, or by e-mail at Mollie.Baldwin@maine.gov.